

FY2011 Appropriations Request Form

Office of Congresswoman Jackie Speier
211 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202/225-3531
Fax: 202/226-4183
Website: www.speier.house.gov

Individuals/Organizations must respond to all questions on the form. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

All appropriations project requests will be presented to and evaluated by the 12th Congressional District's Citizens Oversight Panel, made up of community leaders. **This year's panel meetings will be held on February 26, March 5 and March 12, 2010 in the 12th Congressional District.** Appointments to appear before the panel must be made through Cookab Hashemi, Chief of Staff, at 202/225-3531 or via email, Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All information provided on this form and any supporting documents will be made available to the public on the Congresswoman's website.

**DEADLINE: Forms are due by Friday, February 12, 2010
@ 6:00 p.m. (P.S.T.)/9:00 p.m. (E.S.T.). Project requests submitted after that
date will not be considered.**

Date Submitted:

Friday, February 12, 2010

Project Name:

Resilience and Wellness Center for the U.S. Warfighter

Individual/Organization: *(Is the grantee located in the 12th Congressional District?)*

The Northern California Institute for Research and Education (NCIRE)
The project will be located in California's 12th Congressional district; the organization is located in California's 8th Congressional district.

Amount Requested (*if requesting report language, please attach.*):

\$990,000

Appropriations Bill/Account/Relevant Authorization law/bill/status (*e.g., “Public Law 107-111”; “FY2008 DOD Authorization”, “Currently pursuing authorization through Agriculture Committee”, “Safe Drinking Water Act” or “Hatch Act”*) *Applicants uncertain as to how to answer this question should contact Cookab Hashemi at 202-225-3531 or via email, Cookab.Hashemi@mail.house.gov for assistance:*

FY 2011 Defense Authorization

Local Contact (*Please provide full contact information, including any relevant phone extensions, and indicate if there is a separate D.C. contact. Please provide local address, state, zip code and email address*):

Requesting Individual

Robert E. Obana

Executive Director / CEO

NCIRE – The Veterans Health Research Institute

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San Francisco, CA 94121-1545

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Jim Wise

Managing Principal

Pace, LLP

1220 North Fillmore Street, Suite 400

Arlington, VA 22201

703-518-8600

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Organization’s Main Activities. (*Please limit your response to 250 words and indicate whether it is a public, non-profit or private for-profit entity.*)

NCIRE is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established to support medical research conducted at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center (SFVAMC) and is the largest research center of its kind associated with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The institute has established an operating model of collaborative research that brings together expertise from DoD, VA, the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), and industry.

NCIRE is part of one of the nation's most dedicated and successful Veterans care communities, pioneering new treatments and understandings of military medicine and care in support of the health of United States uniformed personnel and veterans, from pre-deployment through old age.. Through new technologies, novel scientific insights, and international clinical collaborations, NCIRE advances health care for America's men and women in uniform, Veterans, their families and the community at large.

Along with partners at the San Francisco VA Medical Center and the University of California, San Francisco, NCIRE's clinicians and investigators:

- Discover and develop effective, safe, and practical treatments for military injuries and diseases, and deploy them worldwide
- Train new researchers in warfighter and Veterans health
- Prepare new generations of providers to care for Veterans in the years to come

NCIRE's primary research areas of focus are:

- Psychological Health
- Readjustment and reintegration post-deployment
- Post-Traumatic Stress/Operational Stress Injury
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Gulf War illness
- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Infection Disease (HIV, Hepatitis)
- Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases
- Chronic kidney and liver diseases

Please show main items in the project and total cost in a simplified chart form.
(Please include the amount of any Federal/State/Local/Private funds, including any in-kind resources.)

Research Staff and Infrastructure	\$350,000
Space Conversion / Renovation	\$500,000
Fitness Equipment	\$300,000
Complementary / Alternative Medicine Materials	\$20,000
Telemedicine Equipment	\$100,000
Other Equipment and Furniture	\$75,000
TOTAL REQUEST	\$1,340,000

Project Description, including a timeline, goals, expected outcomes and specific uses of Federal Funds. *(Your response must focus on the requested funds rather than the organization's mission and general activities. Please limit your response to 250 – 500 words.)*

Overview : The Welcome and Wellness Center

The aim of this project is to research and develop a prototype resilience and wellness-oriented mental and physical health center. In creating a modern Resilience and Wellness Center (RWC) in San Bruno, CA, this proposal aims to simultaneously enrich the San Francisco Bay Area military and veteran community, facilitate vital new connections between the military and non-military residents of the 12th congressional district, and provide a center for research and understanding of military physical and mental health.

This effort will provide a foundation for better understandings of service delivery to local guard, reserve and veterans. The RWC will actively work with colleagues in the DoD to determine options for real time opportunities with immediate, high-quality, non-stigmatized mental and physical health care, “where they are.”

Because a high percentage of returning veterans with mental health problems are reluctant to seek care in mental health settings, the RWC represents a contemporary approach to outreach in the veteran community and a novel method to meet needs of local military service personnel. The RWC will emphasize wellness and resiliency, rather than illness and disability, and tailor its services to the unique needs of military and veterans.

Goals: Engaging Veterans, Enriching the Community

The RWC will establish four goals: A) A coordinated hub of contemporary and preventative health research and education for resilience and wellness building relevant to military medicine and veterans health B) A non-stigmatized portal to physical and mental health recovery for Bay Area military and veterans who need - but are not accessing - available services C) Validated research that may lead to a resource and a national model for new and wellness-based fitness, care and wellness programs D) A valuable community resource for greater integration and communication between the military and veteran population with the greater community. The RWC will conduct rigorous testing of the success and local utilization of this resource.

Description: A Mind-Body Approach To Care

The RWC will provide fitness and exercise facilities, complementary and alternative medicine services (yoga and meditation), appropriate Eastern-based healing techniques (e.g. acupuncture), cooking and nutritional resources, and telemedicine conferencing equipment to research participants. The center will provide space and facilities for military and veteran-relevant interaction with the community-at-large.

Funds will be utilized to support research staff and infrastructure, renovate space, procure equipment and acquire research equipment for the Wellness Center core facilities. Timeline of completion of the project will be approximately 8 months.

Expected Outcomes: Near-Term Benefit to the Warfighters, Veterans and the General Public

Based upon the results of the research, including measured changes in levels of improved or changed psychological health conditions, demonstrated demand for these services, we expect the research generated by the Resilience and Wellness Center to make an immediate and positive impact on the physical and mental health of the warfighter and the Veteran. We also anticipate that this center will increase the percentage of local Veterans who access available care and treatment.

We expect that this initial funding will allow the Resilience and Wellness Center to serve as an anchor for the broader public-private development and expansion of a local network of resources for veteran health, healing, recreation, community activities and civilian-veteran partnerships.

Can this proposal be funded via fees levied on users of the service or via the ordinary capital budgeting process of the organization?

No

What is the local significance of this project?

Protecting the U.S. Warfighter through Resilience and Wellness Exercises and Strengthening The Veteran Community:

Optimizing performance and preventing or reducing the effects combat trauma may effect to the psychological health of the U.S. Warfighter as well as Veterans will have immediate access to new mental and physical health treatments. The RWC effort brings the region's most current advances in medicine, health, fitness and care to the area.

Addressing the Long Term Costs of Untreated Problems for OEF / OIF Veterans:

This project aims to reduce future burden of costs to the district incurred by a failure to recognize and manage the signature wounds of military combat service. The costly long term burden of medical care, vocational instability, reduced productivity, legal problems and family disruption are most effectively mitigated with engagement with the community and the delivery of preventive care in the crucial months and years following return from combat service.

Reputation

Though conventional wisdom often incorrectly portrays the Bay Area as indifferent to the needs of members of the military, the region has a legacy of high participation and substantive contribution to the United States Armed Forces. The RWC will immediately establish the area as one of the most advanced, proactive and responsive communities for Veterans in the United States.

Community Interaction:

Well-adjusted military and veterans are highly skilled, well-trained, disciplined and productive members of their communities. The contributions that well adjusted Veterans can make to purse normal productive workforce and community activities reduce the potential impact and dependance on the VA system and community resources. The RWC will help bridge the culture gap between military and non-

military populations with educational events, vocational counseling and recruitment services, and non-medical space for veterans and civilians to meet and forge new community relationships.

How many residents of the 12th CD will benefit from this project? *(i.e. jobs created, services rendered to, how many people, etc.)*

From a broad perspective, all residents of the 12th CD will benefit from an active, engaged, healthy military community.

Please explain the federal interest in this proposal (i.e. meets a stated objective of federal policy, supports a federal agency, is the result of a federal law/mandate, etc.)

This request is complementary to the goals of the Department of Defense, adding capacity, reducing barriers to care, developing evidence based treatments, proactively engaging military personnel and advancing military science and medicine.

List any other organizations or state/local elected officials who have expressed support for the project in writing.*(Please submit copies of support letters along with the request form.)*

Does the organization have any other funding requests for this project?

No

Has the organization previously received Federal funds for this project?
(Please list any funds received [by fiscal year] and briefly describe how those funds were spent.)

No

Has the individual and/or organization submitted the project request to other Member offices? If so, please identify below the names of the Members of Congress and staff persons.

No

Please attach a list of your organization's staff and board members from 2005 – 2010. (*if any*).

Attached

Please attach any additional relevant materials.

February 12, 2010

The Honorable Jackie Speier
Congresswoman
United States House of Representatives
211 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Resilience and Wellness Center for the U.S. Warfighter

Dear Congresswoman Speier,

We are pleased to present the Northern California Institute for Research and Education (NCIRE) request for FY 2011 funding to support continuing efforts addressing the neuro-consequence of combat through research projects to improve prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of the neurological and psychological wounds of war.

Of the almost two million Americans who have served or are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, approximately 11% (1 of 9) come from California. The California Department of Veterans Affairs reports that 30,000 Veterans return to California annually. Women make up approximately 15% of our fighting forces. Many of these warriors have served multiple tours, increasing their potential exposure to traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress (PTS(D), depression, substance abuse, sexual trauma, suicidal thoughts, and other psychological and neurocognitive injuries and conditions. The ongoing consequences of these injuries affect Veterans, uniformed personnel, families, peers, employers, and communities.

With your help, NCIRE proposes a Resilience and Wellness Center for investigators to research the benefits of exercise and alternative wellness therapies alone or combined with traditional clinical practice to improve the wellness and resilience of the U.S. men and women serving and Veterans. Research is dedicated to improved prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTS(D); related psychological health illnesses and conditions including dementia, depression, and substance abuse; traumatic brain injury, in particular TBI associated with closed head injury resulting from combat; emerging needs for advancing the health of women warriors; and other combat-related injuries.

NCIRE-The Veterans Health Research Institute is very grateful for the support and your encouragement to submit a funding request at your suggestion has afforded us the opportunity to pursue research that greatly expands the capacity of military medicine, thus improving military and Veterans health. However, much work is yet to be done. Your support for this request will provide NCIRE the opportunity to advance its work serving our nation's military personnel, Veterans and society at large. On behalf of NCIRE, we thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Obana

Robert E. Obana
Executive Director and CEO

cc: Paul Volberding, M.D., NCIRE Board Chairman
Sophia Vinogradov, M.D., NCIRE, Board Member

NCIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members and Assistants

Updated 02/10/2010

Primary SFVAMC Phone Number: (415) 221-4810

NAME	BOARD POSITION	TITLE and EMAIL ADDRESS	ADDRESS/MAIL STOP	EXTENSION/PHONE NUMBER	FAX
Volberding, Paul A., MD	Chairman	Chairman of the Board, NCIRE Chief of Medical Service, SFVAMC Professor and Vice Chair of Medicine, UCSF Co-Director, UCSF-GIVI Center for AIDS Research paul.volberding@va.gov	SFVAMC 111	2037	(415)750-2182
Oakley, Michelle	-	Assistant to Dr. Volberding Barbara.briscoe@med.va.gov	SFVAMC 203-1A82	2203	(415) 750-2182
Yee, Judy, MD	Vice Chair	Vice Chair of the Board, NCIRE Chief of Radiology Service, SFVAMC Professor and Vice Chair of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, UCSF judy.yee@va.gov	SFVAMC 114	2650 Pager: (415) 207-4399	(415)476-6944
Pique, Marilyn	-	Assistant to Dr. Yee Marilyn.pique@va.gov	SFVAMC 114	2120	(415)476-6944
Bitoff, John W., Rear Admiral, US Navy (Ret.)	Member	Executive Director, Facilities Maintenance and Operations, San Francisco Unified School District bitoffj@sfusd.edu	1911 Pierce Street San Francisco, CA 94115	(415) 931-8288	---
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Newman, Walter S., Major, US Army (Ret.)	Member	Community Leader waltn3663@aol.com	3663 Washington St. San Francisco, CA 94118	(415) 788-1076	---
Nicoll, C. Diana, MD, PhD, MPA	Member, statutory	Chief of Staff, SFVAMC Acting ACOS for Research and Development SFVAMC Chief, Laboratory Service, SFVAMC Associate Dean, School of Medicine, UCSF Professor and Vice Chair of Laboratory Medicine, UCSF diana.nicoll@va.gov	SFVAMC 11	2047	(415)750-2185
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ADVISORS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Smith, Lloyd Holly, MD	Advisor	Associate Dean, School of Medicine, UCSF Professor of Medicine, Emeritus, UCSF lloydhollysmith@aol.com	UCSF Box 0410	(415) 476-2342	---
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NCIRE OFFICERS and SENIOR MANAGEMENT

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